Programme of the US Institute of peace in Philadelphia

4117. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in the Statesman recently that Mr. Munro Coordinator of the Asia Programme of the U.S. Institute of Peace in Philadelphia has got a solution for the Kashmir problem;

(b) if so, what is the solution and the reaction of the Government;

(c) whether Government have suggested that India and Pakistan should transform the area they control into a Himalayan Hongkong to be known as the Kashmir Economic Zone; and

(d) if so, what is the implication of the solution to the Kashmir problem if it is to be accepted by both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen media reports about Ross Munro's paper on Jammu & Kashmir in which he has proposed the setting up of a Kashmir Economic Zone.

The suggestion of Ross Munro does not, in any way, reflect the thinking of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of nuclear weapon free zones

4118. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:
SHRI V. NARAYANA SAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is taking the same position as the West with regard to the Indian argument that the NPT is discriminatory and seeks to create a permanent divide between the nuclear haves and have nots;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China favours the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones on the basis of voluntary consultations and supports proposals on a five-nation conference for nuclear free South Asia;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is Government's response in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

China formally acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 9 March 1992. China stated that it supports the objectives set forth in the Treaty.

(b) and (c) China has supported the concept of nuclear weapon free zone in various parts of the the world including the Koreas, the South Pacific, South East Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. It has also expressed support for proposals on the setting up a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia. China has suggested that all nuclear weapon states undertake to support the proposition of establishing NWFZs and respecting the status of such zones.

(d) Government believes that China's decision to sign the NPT does not remove the discriminatory provisions of the Treaty. India believes that nuclear disarmament is a global issue and must be solved globally. This goal of disarmament cannot be achieved by partial mea-